



Governor's Steering Committee on Natural Resource-based Industries

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Dear Friends,

We are delighted with the enthusiastic response to the green infrastructure forum hosted by the Governor's Steering Committee on Maine's Natural Resource-based Industry on June 29, 2006. Your participation and thoughtful feedback will help to move us forward in this important endeavor.

At the forum, participants suggested a number of ideas to help fund the acquisition and upkeep of our "green infrastructure." Recommendations ranged from establishing endowments to assessing voluntary fees to raising bonds. Central to implementing these funding mechanisms was the idea to form a loose coalition that would take charge of developing the substance of the funding proposals and advocate for their passage. At the forum there was strong feedback that the Governor's Steering Committee should move forward with assembling this coalition.

The University of Maine has graciously offered to host the coalition and provide administrative support. Given the university support and the high level of interest in developing a coalition, we are proceeding.

Unless we hear from you otherwise, we will include all of you that are interested in green infrastructure in the coalition. We will keep you informed of meetings and activities and will call upon you for advice and support. For the time being we are calling ourselves the Green Infrastructure Working Group.

We have schedule a working group meeting for August 9, 2006, from 2:00-4:00 p.m. in Room 138 (first floor) of the Student Technology Center at the University of Maine at Augusta. Please RSVP to Linda LaPlante at 287-6077 or Linda.c.laplane@maine.gov if you plan to attend.

Thank you for your commitment to Maine's future.

Sincerely,

Richard Davies

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cc: Members, Steering Committee